

I will be watching the outcome of this legislation. I am 53 years old and no rabble-rouser. Believe me, I and many of my friends and business associates are keenly interested in this issue.

Bell companies operate an "essential facility", and should have to accommodate other ISP firms that wish to purchase access from them. This wholesale provisioning will stimulate competition and be of benefit to the consumers. To not do so would cripple the '96 Telecom Act.

Chairman Powell: Please do not act in a way that demonstrates that this administration is basically for sale to the lobbyist willing to submit the highest bid, at the expense of competition and the small businesses of our country. Republicans say they favor competition; it's time to prove that these are more than just words.